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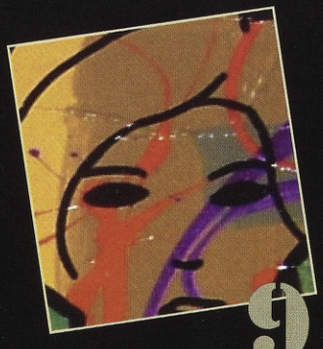

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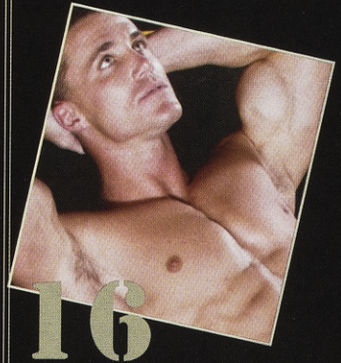

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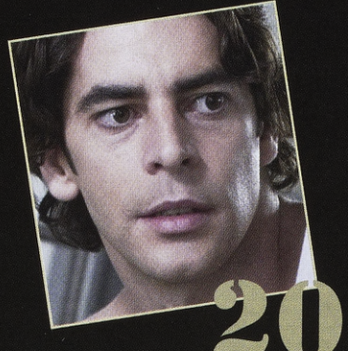

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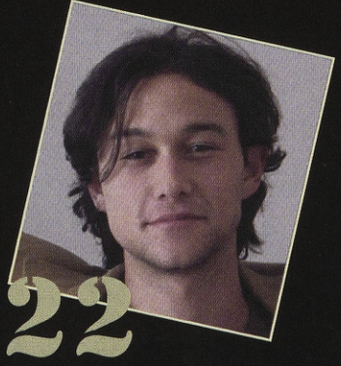

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FROM THE EDITOR

CLAY AIKEN MAY BE SUED FOR SEX LIFE

Clay Aiken conjures images of American Idol, bad spiky hair and about 1001 Mad TV skits making fun of his androgynous (read closeted) persona; the same that followed Liberace and Barry Manilow. Now, however, thanks to several guys cruising sex-chats who can't keep their mouths shut, he will bring to mind a persona similar to George Michael and Pee Wee Herman. It seems Clay gets lonely on the road and allegedly logs onto manhunt.net to cruise the clientele and show them his chest over his webcam.

Who cares, right? Apparently a group of bitter ex-fans who spent their allowances on Clay's CDs and are shocked at the revelation that Clay is interested in sex—especially GAY sex. They are now considering a complaint with the Trade Commission and a Class Action lawsuit against Clay and his record company.

"As consumers, we feel ripped off...the private Clay is very different from the manufactured packaged public Clay that was marketed to us," said a spokesman for the group. They believed Clay was marketed as an asexual, choirboy and were unhappy when they discovered different (even though a number of his song lyrics express gender unspecific sexual overtures).

If the complaint is found to be true, however, it will result in criminal and civil penalties, including fines, and corrective advertising. Consumers could also seek reimbursement. Sounds completely ridiculous, right? Not really. If Clay is dragged to court and his life exposed in the same manor as Oscar Wilde's was over 100 years ago, the results could be a lot more dangerous than just having Clay saying "sorry" to some disillusioned ex-fans. It could be an open door to a series of witch trials cloaked as consumer awareness.

Columbia Video could be sued Lucy's hair wasn't naturally red. Mel Gibson sued—he masked his Austrailian accent in *Lethal Weapon*. Dolly Parton sued—that's not her real hair! A country singer from New York! Sue! SUE!

Then whenever we will see a celebrity appear on TV, a little voice will come on speed reading a full disclosure notice about their lives the same way the drug companies must on their commercials. Next up, Michael Jackson—voiceover: former child singer with the Jackson 5, has had too many plastic surgeries, divorced twice, two children, hung one out a window, cleared of pedephilia charges...etc.

Anyone with functioning gaydar would look at Clay and say "GAY!", yet, he still denies it publicly. Because of that, we try to keep an open mind. Now, thanks to "well-meaning" gay chat users, whom I'm sure were just chatting about politics themselves (after all one was a school teacher) the evidence now leads us to believe Clay lied to us about being a hide-the-sausage-loving polesmoker. That didn't persuade one online fan who wrote, "Clay Aiken is straight. Leave him alone you ugly homosexuals. Quit trying to make him like you. It isn't going to work." Yup. Now it's our fault. Supposedly we WANT Clay to be gay. Because...why? We need yet another Sominex-voiced Manilow-look-alike to worship? Please, Mary!

CLAY AIKEN

If Clay Aiken should be sued, it should be for being moronic enough to use his real name and send digicam pics of himself shirtless on an adult chat and think they wouldn't be made public. While we're at it, let's sue the guys who chatted with him and tried to make a fast buck off outing him—something still considered a gay sin in many circles. Isn't that deception and false advertising? Let's sue straight actors who play gay roles; the Brokeback actors for not being real cowboys; Celine Dion for the CDs she sung in English before she even spoke it. Or better yet, if Clay is gay, let's sue him for saying he wasn't—seems to me that is not only deceptive advertising, but defamation of character.

Whatever the outcome of this situation, hopefully Clay will learn that next time he's lonely, just cough up the $200 for a male escort like other closeted celebs and save your fans the heartache.

Matthew Burlingame
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MGW

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RESPONSE

DEAR EDITOR

PREVIOUS ISSUE

COVER MAN JOSH WESTON AT THE DEPOT
PHOTO BY RICH JONES

"W.W.J.D.?"

The Rainbow Sash Movement charges the Archdiocese of Boston with a failure to serve, as Jesus taught us to do. We live in a world were the lives of born children are being threatened daily, and yet we put so many other things ahead of their needs. For the Archdiocese to turn its back on children is akin to the Archdiocese turning its back on the Gospel Values the Church is suppose to promote. I think there is a lot of anger to go around.

However, if there is only anger and no reason, we sink into endless finger pointing. It is natural to demonize those you don't like, it just makes it right. It is more difficult to build bridges, and outreach your hand. So should we judge all the Catholic Bishops by the actions of a few? What of the Bishops accross the country who allow GLBT families to adopt, and do it very quietly? What about options for women who are pregrant who want the baby and cannot afford it? What about Catholic Charities who do a wonderful job in not being judgemental, and allow GLBT parents to adopt. Should we like the Archdiocese of Boston throw out the baby with the water because we can't have it all our way?

The Archdiocese of Boston has committed an abortion of faith, they put other issues ahead of the very real needs of born children. Not all Archdioceses and Dioceses handle it the same way. Perhaps it is time to listen to Jesus and find another way.

Joe Murray
US Convener
Rainbow Sash Movement
rainbowsashmovement.com

"MCC SUPPORTS W. SAC MAYOR"

We at Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) of Sacramento want to commend Mayor Chris Cabaldon, for his courage in his decision to reveal his sexuality publicly. It is an act of integrity when a community official makes a decision that may not be received positively by some, but this decision is an encouragement to many. Thank you Mayor Cabaldon!

Respectfully
Rev. Roland Stringfellow
Pastor of MCC Sacramento
mccsacramento.com

"PRETENTIOUS PUBLISHER"

Imagine my surprise when I picked up the latest copy of MGW and saw a gay adult film star on the cover. What a shocker! Weren't there two porn men on the front of the last MGW? You should rename your publication PSM (Porn Star Monthly) so that lesbians in our community don't accidentally pick it up thinking there might be some content inside for them.

Just to be fair, I actually read the interview with porn god Josh Weston and was surprised to see him effectively use the words "jejune" and "doppelganger" in conversation right before casually mentioning that he gets double-fucked on film.

I don't know who comes off more pretentious, the interviewer ("Executive Publisher" Jeffry Davis) or the interviewee. I do know one thing. I will be reading Outword from now on.

Anonymous Letter
Unsigned, No Return Address

"SVL BREAKFAST RETURNS"

The monthly Pancake Breakfast fundraiser hosted by the Sacramento Valley Leathermen returned on Sunday, Apr. 2 after a long hiatus. All facets of the event were a great success.

We could not be happier with our new venue the Mercantile Saloon. The use of the new patio bar as our "open kitchen" worked great, allowing all our volunteers to interact with the guests.

Our 2006 donation recipients are Breaking Barriers, Lavender Library and Lambda Players.

We are pleased to add the True Colors Women's Chorus as a fourth recipient group this year. All our recipient groups provided excellent volunteer support for the event.

A big thanks to: Bill, Mike and especially Stephanie at the Merc! Thor at Altomar Productions for the promotional poster. And all our volunteers who worked so hard to make the event a great success.

See you all in May on Sunday the 7th 10am-12:30pm

Bill Burgua, President
Sacramento Valley Leathermen, Owen Rowell, Manager, SVL Pancake Breakfast
svlclub.org

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters, announcements and other information sent to the editor must include a verifiable name, address or e-mail address and phone number. Send your letter to: editor@mgwnews.com or MGW Editor, 1123 21st Street, Ste. 200, Sacramento CA 95814. All letter become property of MGW and may be edited for length.

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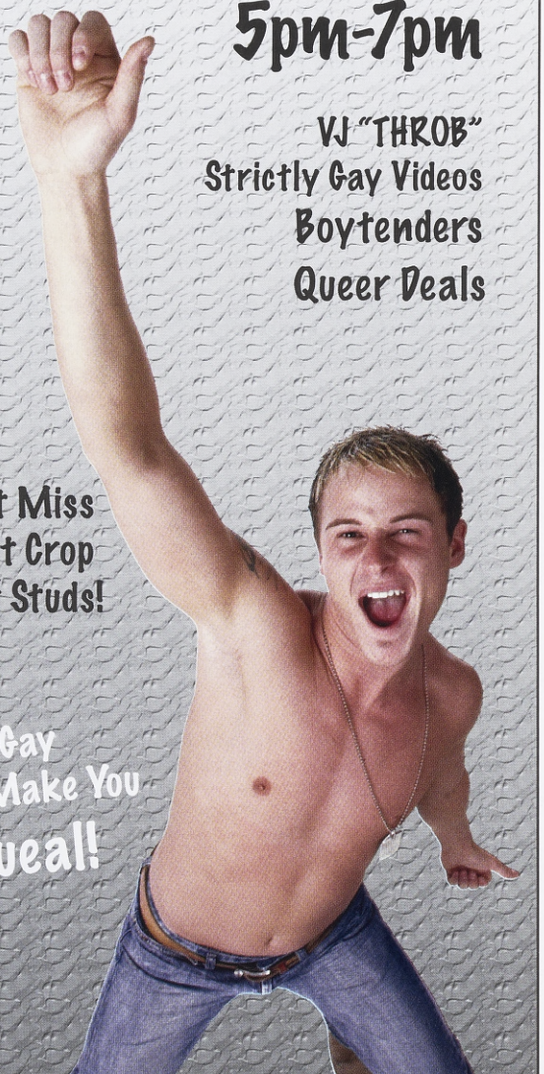

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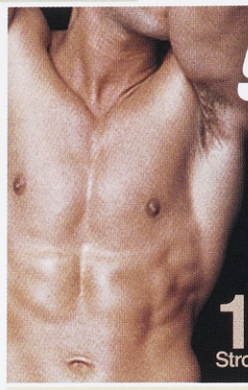

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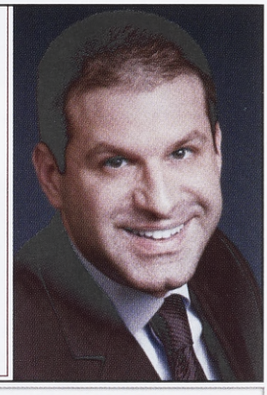

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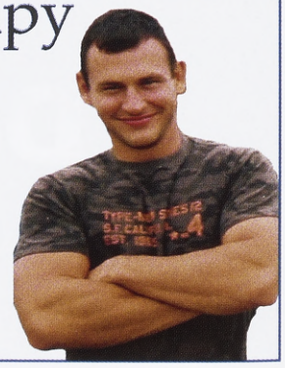


SACRAMENTO NEWSWIRES

SIRENS SOUND OFF

Three-time International Women's Football League Champions Sacramento Sirens kick off their season Sat, April 29 against the Atlanta Xplosion. The game is scheduled to start at 6pm at Foothill High School, 5000 McCloud Dr. This season Head Coach "Diamond" Lil Jarrell, last season's MVP will be in the driver's seat along with a crack management team made up of many of the team's veteran players. With a record of only losing one game in the last four years, a stellar team and seasoned managment—it looks like another championship right around the corner! Check out more information on the gals who keep bringin' home the championships at sacramentosirens.com

BIG LEAGUE BALL

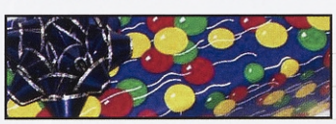
The Capital City Hoopsters Basketball League will play host to Sacramento's very first national invitational basketball tournament April 28-30. With over 200 people planning to attend from all over the country, the Sac Town Shootout will enjoy a weekend of festivities including parties, bar events, a look at Sacramento and of course, lots of great basketball! This will hopefully mark the first of many invitationals hosted by our Hoopsters. For more info check out sacramentohoops.com

RESPECT'S DAY OF SILENCE MARCH

RESPECT sacramento
creating safe schools for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people

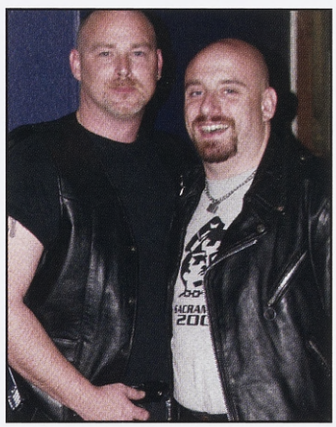
On Wed., Apr. 26 (the National Day of Silence), RESPECT is asking the LGBT community and straight allies of Sacramento to come together and show the rest of Sacramento that we are united against homophobia and transphobia. The Day of Silence was started in 1996 in response to the oppression and harassment that LGBT students experience at school and in their general community. In the past, participants in the Day of Silence take a vow of silence for the entire day, and in the evening hold an event called the Night of Noise. Last year, Sacramento had its first Day of Silence march, and we are hoping to continue the tradition for as long as it is necessary. RESPECT will be marching from the Lambda Center to the Department of Education for all the closeted and out LGBT students (and the straight students who are thought to be LGBT) that have been harassed. They will then walk around the Capitol grounds and back to the Lambda Center for a pizza party to end our Night of Noise. Wed. Apr. 26 at 5-6:30pm (with an after party), Lambda Community Center, 1927 L St., Sacramento

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU 2



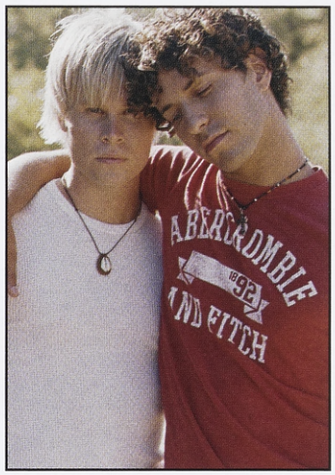
Everyone is invited to join Shawn & Bianca for their annual birthday bash: "The Black & White Party" on Sun., Apr. 30 at 5pm at FACES back patio. The event will include a free buffet, drink specials, party favors and of course cake & ice cream. Come celebrate the two community fixtures and stay for an evening of fun and dancing.

2006 LEATHERSIR AND LEATHERBOY CONTEST



The Sacramento Leathermen present their annual contest to select new LeatherSir and Leatherboy representatives for Sacramento May 5-7. The weekend's line up is as follows: Fri., May 5–"Meat" and Greet 9pm-Mid at The Bolt, 2560 Boxwood, N. Sacramento. Come out and meet the contestants, judges and out of town guests. 50/50 Raffle, Drink specials for those in leather/fetish gear. Sat., May 6The contest 9–11pm, $3 door at The Bolt. It's "Muscles & Masculinity" as contestants vie for the 2006 titles. The winners will advance to the regional competition held in San Francisco in July. Sun., May 7Victory Brunch 10am, $7, at The Mercantile, 20th and L Sts., Downtown Sacramento. Held in conjunction with the world famous Pancake Breakfast of the Sacramento Valley Leathermen. Come celebrate the great efforts shown by all the contestants and wish the new titleholders well. The 2006 Sacramento LeatherSir & Leatherboy contest is produced by I.S. Productions in association with the Sacramento Valley Leathermen, Inc. The Producers are David Shorey, Joseph Davis, John Yant and Skip Griffith. Major Sponsor: MGW Newsmagazine. Those interested in competing should visit the I.S. productions website: isproductions.org

SPIRIT POP AT MCC



Pop duo Jason & Demarco will be appearing in Sacramento at MCC, 10500 Chaplain Ave. during their May 7, 10am service. The group appeared on the cover of "The Advocate" magazine in July 2004, and to much critical and popular acclaim, debuted their first pop album, "Spirit Pop," a 12-track album of original compositions, combing both pop and inspirational genres. The group will be promoting their new CD as well as joining the MCC congregation in their service.

NEW ORLEANS BENEFIT

There will be a free concert to benefit the children of the 9th Ward in New Orleans on the West Steps and Lawn pf the state Capitol at 9th St. between L & N Sts. From noon to 3:30pm on Sat., May 13 come see Little & Vincent, Dave Lynch, GG Amos and Dave Douglas. No Alcohol, drugs or Cigarettes please.

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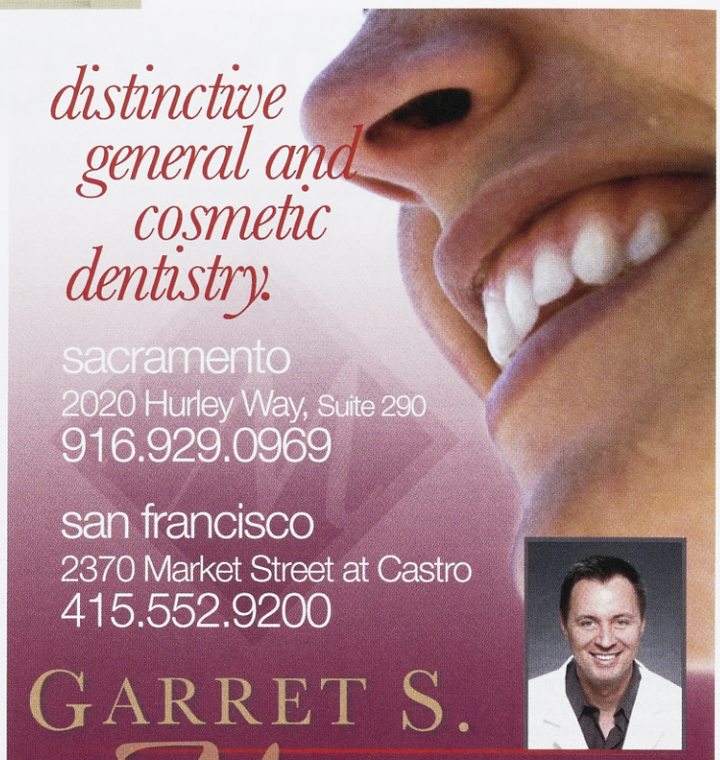

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

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art of danyol

San Fransico based artist danyol came into the world in 1970 just a stone's throw from Disneyland. Growing up he nourished himself on a steady diet of pop art, cubism and sarcasm. While his art may appear bright and smile-inducing on the surface, layer after layer of meaning and cultural intensity lie collaged in the background. danyol takes time out of his busy schedule to spend a few minutes with MGW.

WHEN DID YOU START PAINTING?
I picked up my first paintbrush when I was in Junior High, but it wasn't until I got to High School that I developed a strong relationship with art. In High School I never really had many friends and the fear of getting punched as I walked down the corridors was always pretty high, so I sought refuge in the art teacher's room during lunch. It was there that he taught me all about art and photography.

WHAT WAS IT THAT MADE YOU REALIZE PAINTING WAS SUCH A PASSION FOR YOU?
I didn't start taking my art seriously until 1999. I was a dance major at Cal State Fullerton, working mostly on my choreography. Every time I choreographed a piece, I would always paint a painting to represent the overall feeling of the dance, but never displayed the art or showed it to anyone but my roommates. Slowly over the next few years choreographing ideas I would end up painting it instead. It wasn't long before I was only painting and not dancing at all.

DO YOU HAVE FORMAL ARTISTIC TRAINING?
I took loads of art classes all thru college. I couldn't get enough. I also went to every museum in every city I went to. But I never really thought of it as a career until I had my first showing (outside of my living room) at Gay Pride in West Hollywood, 2000. I had a booth and sold 22 pieces. It was then that I realized that I might be able to make a career out of painting.

WHAT DID YOU WISH TO BE WHEN YOU WERE A KID?
Thru my teens and twenties I wanted to be a dancer/choreographer. I worked on some cruise ships and did a few US tours with companies but I was not able to turn it into a career. I never thought in a million years that I could be an artist.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT YOUR MEDIUM FASCINATES YOU?
Everything! The decoupage that I am currently obsessed with is very exciting to me. I love the fact that I have no idea what it is going to look like when I am done. I also love to 'paint' with things other than paint. The use of paper, trash, cardboard, nail polish, stamps, matches—whatever it is that I am decopaging to the canvas, these things become my paint, making shapes and textures that I could never do with paint alone. I love the immediacy of acrylic. I paint very fast and there are so many layers. I have no patience when it comes to my art and when I start a piece, it's almost a race to get it done so I can see the final product.

WHAT ARTISTS HAVE INFLUENCED YOUR STYLE?
My biggest influences are Keith Haring and Picasso. They both have taught me so much about color, line work, shape and abstraction. Jean-Michel Basquiat's frantic chaos is also a big influence, especially on the decoupage aspect of my work. And I can never get enough Jasper Johns. Modigliani and Robert Rauschenberg are also faves.

WHERE DO YOU THINK THE WORLD OF ART IS GOING?
That's what is so great about the world of art. It's so relative and unpredictable. I would like to see it go in every direction possible. I visit cities like Berlin and Bali and art is so infused into every aspect of their culture. It's quite amazing to see. In Barcelona the bus stops are major works of art! Bus stops! Here in the states we are lucky to see art so freely expressed and supported by the people. I really like what I have going on now called the Art and Music Session with my DJ mate Cez. We bring our mix of fresh art and kickass house music to bars and restaurants throughout San Francisco. I just love the combination. Future predictions—danyol will be a household name! I really just want to pick up where Keith Haring left off...and to make people smile.

WARHOL OR CHAGALL?
Warhol. The first time I was ever affected by art was at LACMA in 1986. We were on a field trip with the art department and they had a Pop Art exhibit with Warhol, Haring, Jasper Johns, Stella, Lichtenstein. I walk into this room filled with large silkscreens by Warhol and I was in awe. It stopped me in my tracks. I was fascinated by the repetition of image and multiple color variations. I also liked the fact that he would often display his 'mistakes'. Something he taught me to do as well. I think he had a large impact on what and how I paint today. Genius! Chagall rocked the house too. He just hasn't effected me the way Warhol has.

YOU'RE OFFERED $10M TO NEVER PAINT AGAIN...?
I could help a lot of people with that amount of money. It would be very selfish of me to turn that much money away just so I can indulge in my artist endeavors. If I did take the money, I would still be artistic. I just wouldn't 'paint'!

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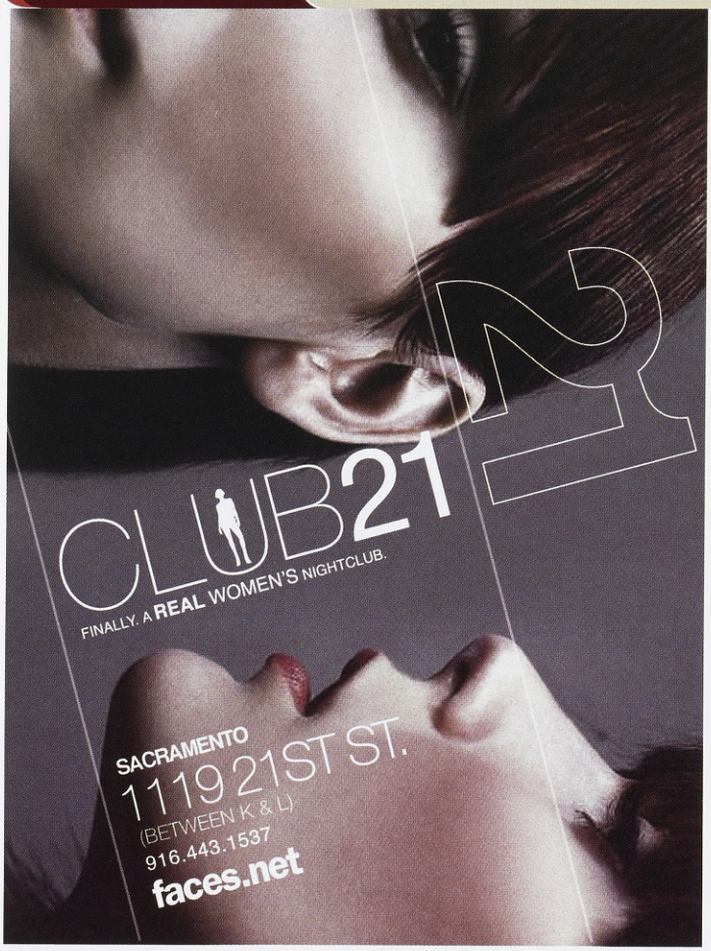

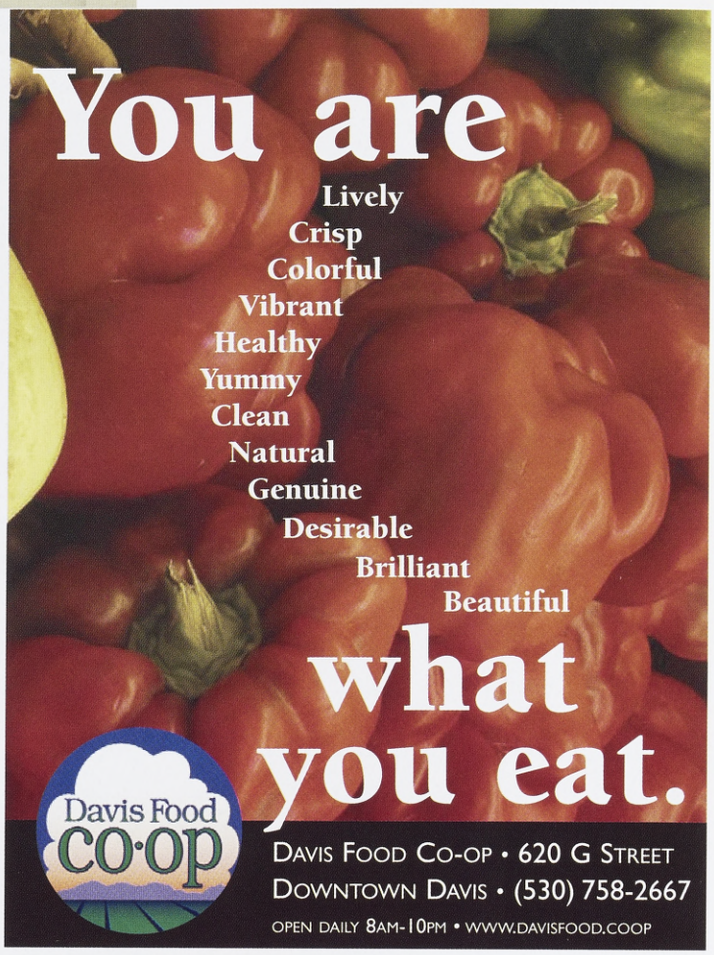

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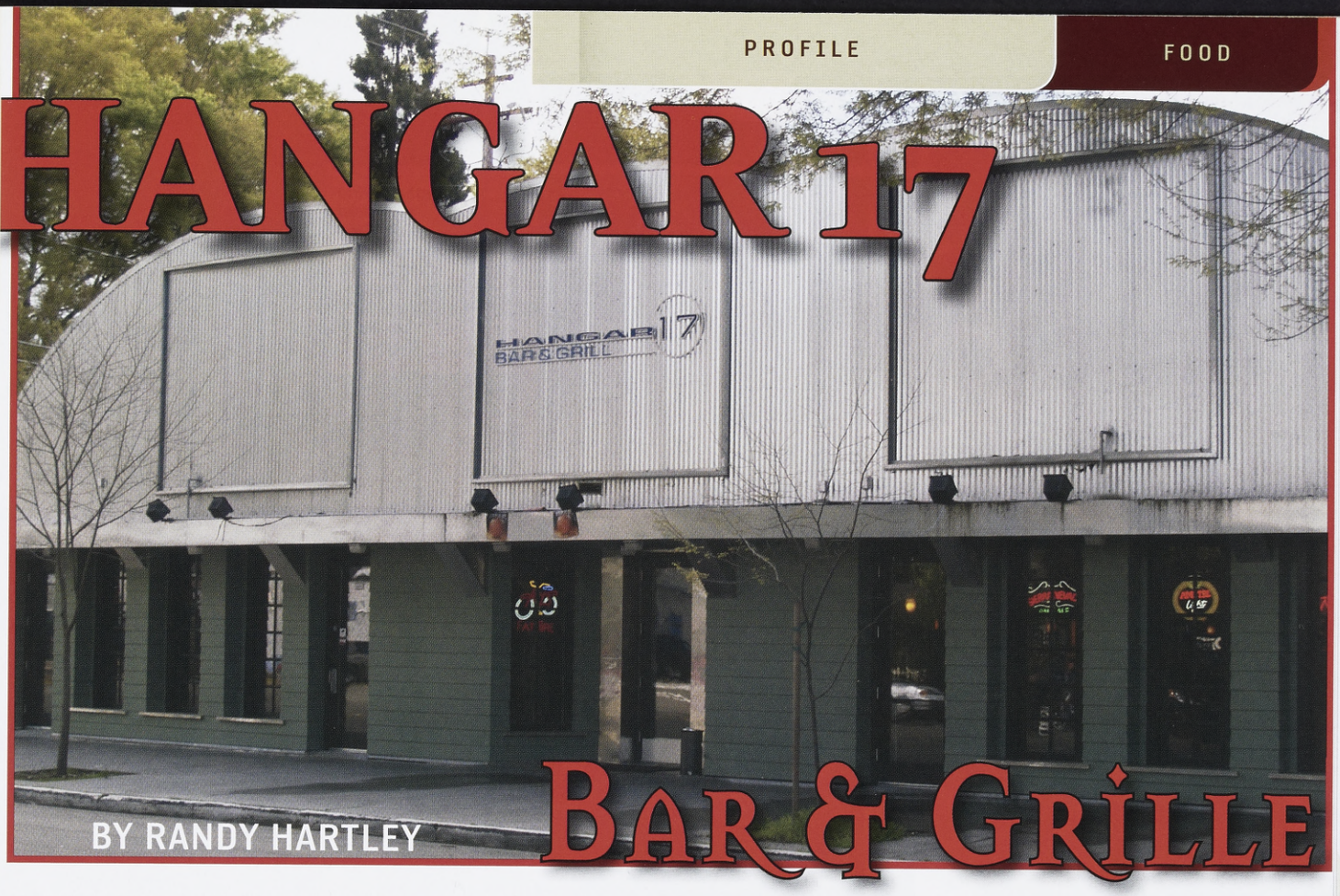

BAR & GRILLE

BY RANDY HARTLEY

James Lombardi seems to know what the public wants and he has delivered at the popular Hangar 17 Bar & Grill in Midtown. James' goal was to create an atmosphere reminiscent of a World War II hangar that would attract a professional and a local crowd of cross-generational customers. After all, the building is three (Quonset) hangar-type buildings remodeled into one and they are at 17th street, ergo the name.

There is an impressive curved bar, imported glass light fixtures and a combination of half booths and high tables all in one spacious room with faux dividers thus giving a panoramic view of the entire room.

James and his fine staff have created an atmosphere with professional yet unobtrusive service beginning with the warm and inviting welcome by Sunny the hostess who just happens to be engaged to James. They really make a nice couple too!

Brother, Chris Lombardi is the Executive Chef and he has created a delicious menu including a broad range of gourmet California cuisine items that are sure to please most any ones palate. Many of his recipies are handed down by his mother who was obviously a wonderful cook. The menu is the same for lunch and dinner.

My dinner partner and best friend, Joseph, and I shared an appetizer of Lumpia made with ground pork, carrots, celery and onions in a thin flour wrap, deep fried and served with a sweet chili sauce and garlic vinegar. The outside was crispy and the filling went with the sauces very well.

We both ordered a side salad of iceberg lettuce and baby greens, tomato, cucumber, red onions and carrots tossed in herb vinaigrette or your choice of home-made dressings. The salad was large, fresh and crisp.

Everything looked so good that the entrée selection was difficult to choose from. We finally decided on the Beef Stroganoff and the Bone-in Pork Chop. The Stroganoff was served on a bed of noodles and the Pork Chop was served with fresh mashed potatoes and sautéed vegetables. Both entrees were favorable and excellent! Other choices were pastas, steak, seafood and pizzas!

Of course, we could not resist the dessert. Only two items are featured but you could not ask for two better desserts, a Cream Brule Cheese Cake drizzled with a tart raspberry sauce and a moist Chocolate Cake with a sweet raspberry sauce. We split the two and each was outstanding and a perfect way to end an excellent meal. Joseph enjoyed fresh-brewed coffee and I finished off an attractive bottle of Peach Iced Tea.

Overall, the experience was very good, there is a nice variety of wines to compliment the cuisine, and the food is priced right. The bar drinks were as attractive as was the atmosphere and men and women patrons.

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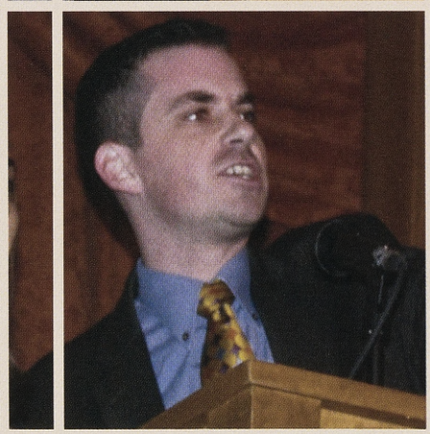
Lambda Awards 2006

Marghe Covino presented SIGLFF the Gail Lang Arts and Culture award, President David Vaner Griff accepted the award.

JG Gonsalves was an award presenter for the evening.

Josh Anderson received the Youth Community Spirit Award

Reverand Doctor Yvette Flunder Received the 2006 Bayard Rustin Award



The evening's presenter was Daniel Roth former president of the Stonewall Democrats.

Gina Livingston preformed live for the crowd, singing soulful songs from her new CD

PHOTOS BY
RICH JONES

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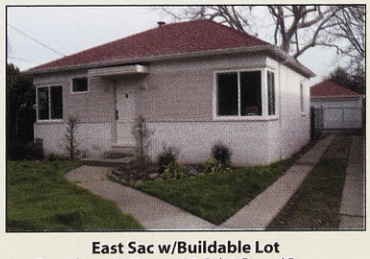

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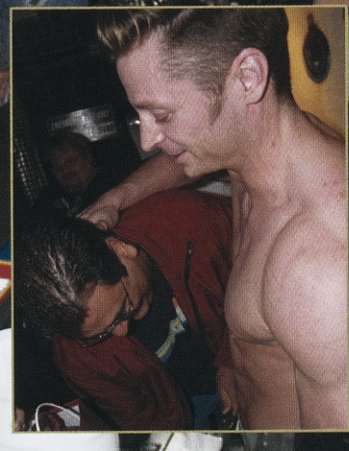

MGW brought Buckshot Man Josh Weston to Sacramento for the Depot's FAG Friday on March 24. About 150 people came out to see Weston and join in the fun which included a raffle for a chance to search for a COLT watch hidden on Josh's body. Four lucky winners got to undress the hunky Weston and get their watches. MGW raised $300 for Lambda Players' Hot Summer Nights program beginning in May.

Dynamic Duo

Offstage, neither Levi Kreis nor Eric Himan affect a popstar persona; both are unassuming, kind, down-to-earth men. Onstage, however, they are masters of their craft; from Kreis' Southern Soul-affected sounds to Himan's Bluesy-Rock origins both command and hold their audiences' attention. Both were at Headhunters in March as part of their Gay.com sponsored tour. While Himan has performed in Sacramento on several occassions, this was Kreis' first time. His performance was memorable not only from the obvious affection from fans and attendees, but was the first time in his performance history an audience member decided to try to get into the act and join him onstage, attempting to sit with him at the piano. With a smile and a quick wit, the situation was remedied and the concert was a hit.

PHOTOS BY RICH JONES AND MIKEJOHNSTON

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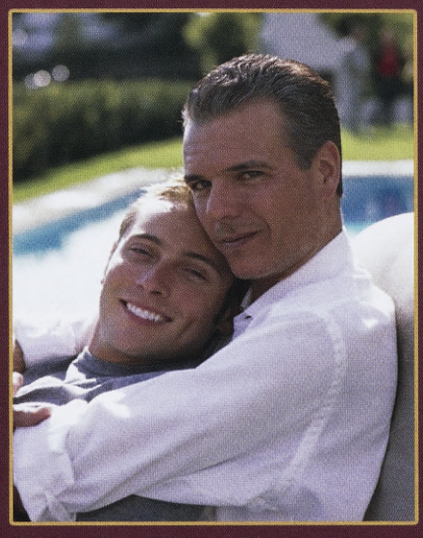

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Q. Is there any cost to apply to meet a millionaire?

A. None! It is free to be listed with GMC, as we work on behalf of our clients who have engaged us to conduct a personal search for their partner. Essentially, they pay our fee so you don't have to. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

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ICON MAN!

Greg Plitt Stars in Latest ICON MEN Workout Video

Sexy fitness cover model shares biceps, triceps and abs routine Greg Plitt Stars in Latest ICON MEN Workout Video

Incredibly sexy West Point graduate, Army Ranger, actor and fitness cover model Greg Plitt shares his complete abdominal and arm workout in ICON MEN's latest fitness video released by Greenwood/Cooper. Finally we'll get to see why Plitt constantly appears on the covers of national fitness magazines and makes ongoing appearances in film and on television. His amazing picture-perfect body speaks for itself!

In this video, Plitt demonstrates for viewers the very biceps, triceps and abs exercises that he uses to develop his amazing body. Meanwhile, he discusses each exercise's exact muscle benefit to help the viewer understand the process and its end-result. This DVD is an insider's look at the proper methods and techniques to use equipment at the gym to its maximum benefit. Plitt's attention to detail shown in this video has impressed authorities at fitness magazines for so long that he has been featured in countless fitness editorials.

This new video not only caters to workout buffs but also fans whom simply want to know more about Plitt and see him at his best. Fans will love the bonus footage taking them behind the scenes at a photo shoot in Palm Springs and at one of Plitt's outdoor training sessions. Plitt also talks about his life and training philosophy hoping to inspire anyone who wants a healthier, more empowered lifestyle. This video is packed with over an hour of footage—longer than any ICON MEN video to date!

Given his success in acting, Plitt will be among the men featured in ICON MEN's upcoming fitness and health TV show being developed by Fremantle Media. Greg will also be featured in a 2007 ICON MEN wall calendar to be published in May by 10% Consumer Products.

The new ICON MEN workout video featuring Plitt has a suggested retail price of $24.95. Screeners and high-resolution imagery are available upon request. The DVD is already available for prebooking online at Amazon.com and 10percent.com. It will also be available at local community retailers upon release.

ICON MEN, LLC was created by several television development executives and a world-renowned celebrity photographer. The ICON MEN are an elite group of the most successful male models in the world who currently appear in fitness magazineas or will be in the near future. ICON MEN works with each model to produce their personal workout and fitness DVD along with other products.

One of the hottest men on the fitness circuit, Greg Plitt, shows why he is a true Iron Man in his new fitness DVD available from 10% Productions.

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ARI GOLD

"...what I've been doing for 30 years? 'Practicing,' said the now out-of-the-closet performer.

BY MERLE EXIT

LESLEY GORE: AFTER THE PARTY

It's this season's final episode, "Left Hand Of The Goddess" of *The L Word*, when Shane is confronting her father's lack of fidelity and departure. As in many of the L Word scenes there is a background song. This one entitled, "Words Don't Say" is being sung by Lesley Gore ("Words we don't say/Trying to hide night after night/Drifting away") and one of several tunes from her new CD, "Ever Since".

In the 60's, Gore was one of the most successful solo artists of the "Girl Group" topping charts with: "It's My Party", "Judy's Turn To Cry" and "You Don't Own Me", a song revived by Bette Midler in the movie, "First Wives Club".

"You know what I'm going to say when people ask me what I've been doing for 30 years? 'Practicing'", said the now deeper voice and out-of-the-closet performer.

Yes, just in case you haven't heard, Gore told the world that she is a lesbian and has been with a partner for over 20 years.

Maintaining a constant touring schedule across the country, Gore's recent gig took place at Queens Theatre In The Park in New York City, where I had the pleasure of seeing the vivacious vocalist. The 90-minute show introduced many of her new songs and brought nostalgia to anyone old enough to recall the original "Bandstand".

"Ever Since", the title song, is made to draw us back to "It's My Party" ("All the weight of nights and days too long to list/All the parties I've been to you were missed/ I've waited ever since") bring us forward into the world that she now inhabits.

"Better Angels", written by Blake Morgan, was featured at the close of the season premiere episode of CBS's hit show CSI:MIAMI as Horatio Caine (played by David Caruso) is visiting a confessional booth. Blake is both her pianist and arranger as well as the producer of her new CD.

"You Don't Own Me" is an even newer rendition and sung in a jazzy ballad flare. This one seemed to have an added stanza of "You don't own me/I want somebody who will be true/You don't own me/You don't own me and I don't own you.

Leslie and her brother Michael were responsible for composing "Out Here On My Own", featured in the Oscar nominated *Fame*. Perhaps it might have been a reflection of her personal life change ("Sometimes I wonder where I've been/Who I am do I fit in/Make believing is hard alone/Out here on my own").

A few of her other new songs were sung, but as she promised, she ran her former hits single-fashioned and not as a medley. For those who may have forgotten, they included: "She's A Fool"; "Sunshine, Lollipops and Rainbows"; "That's the Way Boys Are"; and "Maybe I Know".

The stage performance adds a backup vocalist, while she and Blake do the backups on the CD version. Although I enjoyed the songs, I found that the live rendition gave a much fuller sound to each of her numbers. She's still got it even at the age of 59.

Leslie Gore's West Coast tour will take her into San Francisco where she will be performing at the Brava Theatre Center, on Sat., April 22 and Sun., April 23. www.brava.org

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San Francisco *International* Film Festival

BY STEFAN GRUENWEDEL

April showers bring May flowers. Maybe so, but the upcoming 49th San Francisco International Film Festival promises to bring a deluge of films to the Bay Area for film lovers everywhere.

Running April 20–May 4, the festival features 227 films from 41 countries, including 74 narrative features, 23 documentaries, and 130 shorts.

With new executive director Graham Leggat at the helm, SFIFF 49 promises to break new ground and set a new tone as it gears up for next year's golden anniversary.

Among its experiments are lower ticket prices, venues across San Francisco's diverse neighborhoods—from Fire Station #7 in South of Market to the Bayview Hunter's Point Center for Arts & Technology—and blogs covering the event on SF360.org, a just-launched website covering the vibrant local film and media scene.

Tilda Swinton gets particular exposure: Not only will she deliver the fourth annual State of Cinema address on April 29, but an art installation called "Big Tilda" will project enormous photocollages of her on San Francisco's City Hall each night throughout the festival's run.

Other luminaries to be honored include German director Werner Herzog, American actor Ed Harris, visionary Canadian filmmaker Guy Maddin, and French screenwriter Jean-Claude Carrière.

Opening night features *Perhaps Love* (Hong Kong; Apr. 20), a feverish, romantic tale of love's memories lost that mixes recent Western musical film styles (think *Chicago, Phantom of the Opera,* and ***Moulin Rouge***) amid a Shanghai and Beijing setting and with a beautiful pan-Asian cast of all-star heartthrobs (well, over there).

Closing night features *A Prairie Home Companion* (USA; May 4), Robert Altman's musical-comedy ensemble piece tribute to Garrison Keillor's radio show of the same name, starring Meryl Streep, Kevin Kline, Lily Tomlin, Virginia Madsen, and Woody Harrelson.

Throughout the festival are a number of promising features:

Romance & Cigarettes (USA; Apr. 29) is John Turturro's exuberant homage to the musical, a celebration of outrageous behavior and a vehicle for some of the world's finest actors to go crazy in this no-holds-barred melodrama.

Backstage (France; May 2) takes on the dark, frenzied world of fandom as a starstruck teen develops an unsavory, dangerous relationship with her pop-icon idol.

In *Al Franken: God Spoke* (USA; Apr. 21, 22, 25), liberal political satirist Al Franken is caught in frenzied action as he races around the country on his book tour for the bestselling book, *Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them.*

The Grönholm Method (Spain; Apr. 21, 23, 24) pits seven job applicants against one another in a dog-eat-dog competition—"*Survivor*" style—to win a high position at a large multinational corporation.

The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros (Philippines; May 2, 4) shows how a gay preteen in a Manila slum causes his family of petty criminals grief when he falls in love with the handsome cop next door.

The sexy *In Bed* (Chile; Apr. 22, 24) takes a single round-the-clock tryst in a motel, and turns it into a contemplation of life, love, and sex as the close-up montages of naked bodies transforms into an intense relationship drama.

Art School Confidential (USA; Apr. 26) is Terry Zwigoff's black comedy with John Malkovich and Max Minghella that tears the lid off of the art school experience, leaving nothing and no one unscathed.

The House of Himiko (Japan; Apr. 24, 27) is an offbeat comedy that concerns a seaside rest home for gay men, where a young woman confronts the father who once abandoned her to become proprietor of a transvestite bar.

In *The Descent* (England; Apr. 29), which festival director Leggat said is the scariest film he's seen in a long time, a group of six women go on a caving expedition, testing the limits of their physical expertise and coming face to face with their worst nightmares.

These are only a few the many terest- films coming to SFIFF If you re- love cinema, owe it to yourself head over to San Francisco during the next couple of weeks and check out the festival.

FEST06.SFFS.ORG
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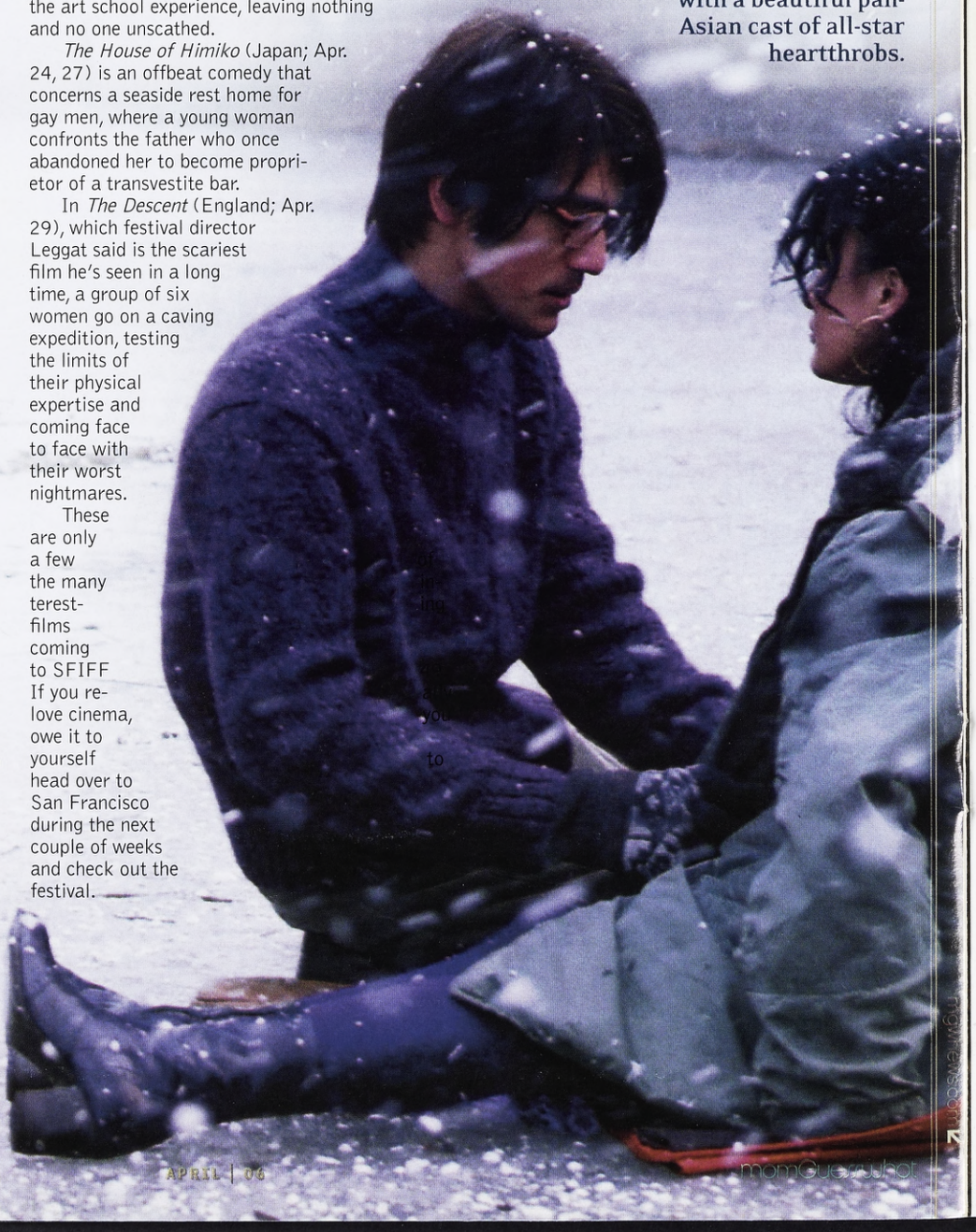
Perhaps Love (Hong Kong; Apr. 20), a feverish, romantic tale of love's memories lost that mixes recent Western musical film styles (Chicago, Phantom of the Opera, and Moulin Rouge) amid a Shanghai and Beijing setting and with a beautiful pan-Asian cast of all-star heartthrobs.



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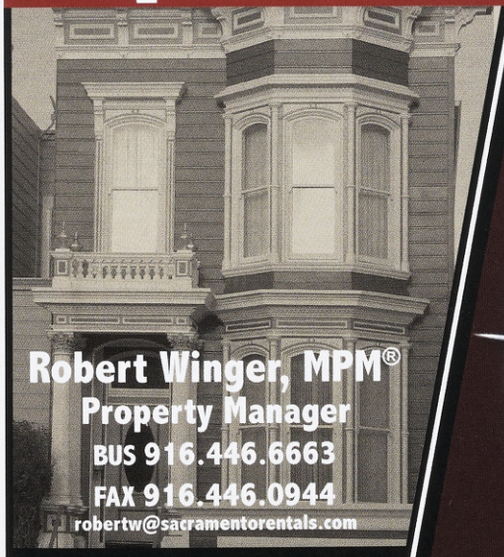

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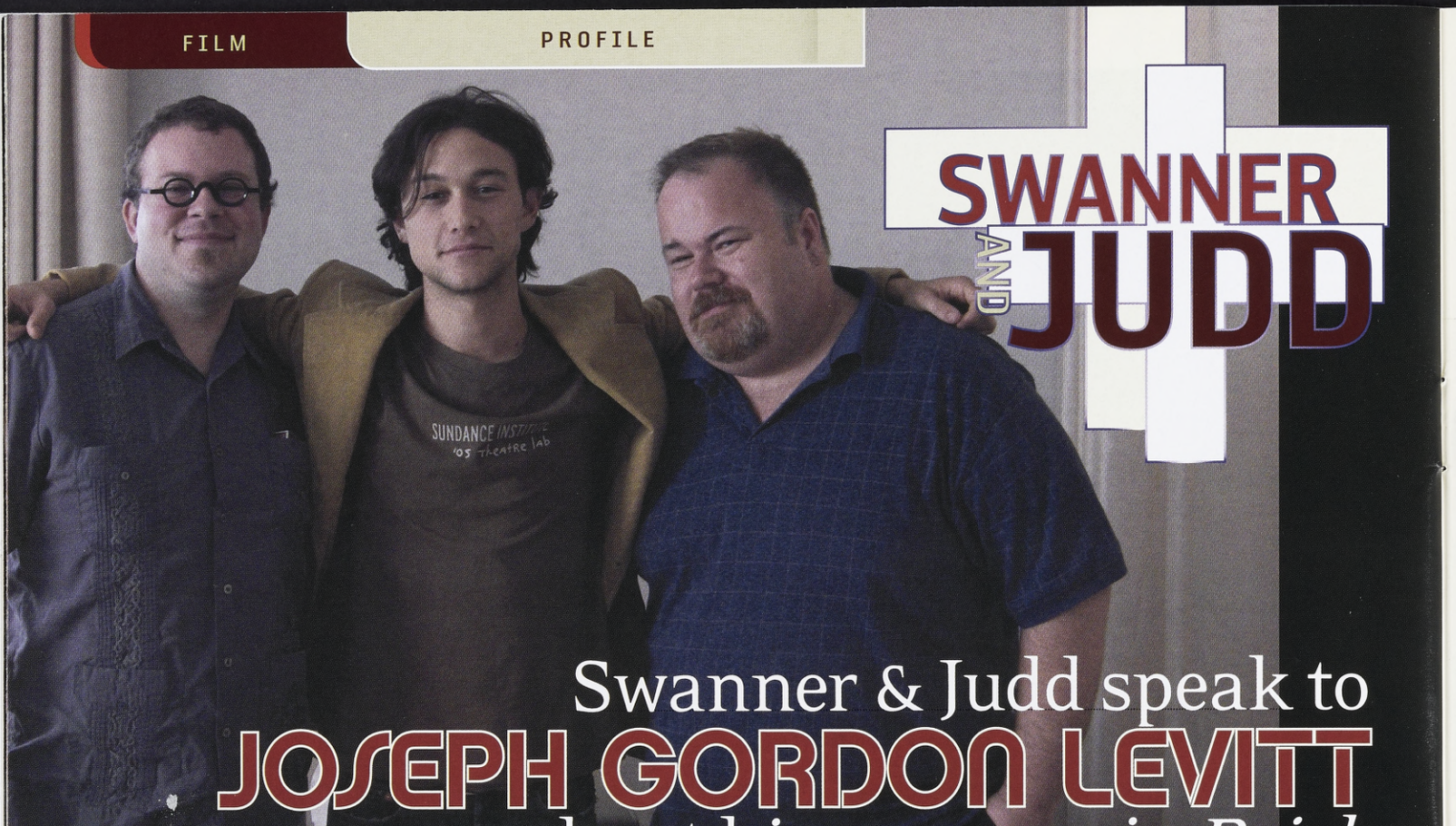

SWANNER AND JUDD

Swanner & Judd speak to JOSEPH GORDON LEVITT about his new movie *Brick*

JUDD: My name is Brian Judd. My co-writer is Tom Swanner. The boss, Jeffry Davis. February 3: a warm day in Sacramento. My co-writer and I were headed into San Francisco to interview Joseph Gordon Levitt for his upcoming Film Noir/High School flick called *Brick*.

SWANNER: *Dragnet*? You're opening with a *Dragnet* monologue? How many readers under 60 do you think are going to recognize that opening?

JUDD: What? I thought it was appropriate. *Brick* is a whodunit type affair. The language is very...never mind. Anyway, we got into The City at around 11:30am. We parked near the hotel and our interview wasn't until 1:30pm so we needed to kill time. Since Tom doesn't like to walk, we decided to go into a bar for a little drink.

SWANNER: We're talking San Francisco; it's not walking, its climbing and if I remember right I asked you if you wanted coffee or a cocktail and your ass was on a barstool before I knew what was happening.

JUDD: I needed to unclench after driving in the car with you. My dash still has grip marks in it! It was one drink and it was after noon. So we went into a dive bar on the corner of Geary and Leavenworth for a cocktail...and a beer. By the time we finished our drinks it was time to walk down to the hotel. I was sober, but sister, you were drunk!

SWANNER: I was drunk? You hateful cow! I wasn't the one who looked like W.C. Fields during happy hour. We proceeded to the interview with Brian stopping to tinkle.

JUDD: OK, we were both drunk. And I didn't have to tinkle; I peed at the hotel which, by the way, was sooo swanky. The Clift. Do you remember that door boy and the way he filled out those grey wool slacks?

SWANNER: He was a healthy young man, wasn't he? When we were finally ready to go up, the handler was in the lobby with the two other writers: a bearish guy and a goth girl.

JUDD: The handler? We're not circus animals. Though, I think that goth girl had a couple of fighting pigs hiding under her broom skirt. And that guy wasn't a bear—he was an unshaven dork.

SWANNER: I loved the room they put us in. It was filled with hideous Ikea type furniture.

JUDD: I particularly liked the orange Lucite coffee table. Anyway, the handler herded us into the room and Joseph Gordon Levitt was escorted in about 5 minutes later. He was looking all cute and informal with ripped jeans, T-shirt, corduroy jacket, sexy tussled hair, bedroom eyes, sly and world-weary smile...and he sat right next to me!

SWANNER: Brian was star struck or something because I noticed a small bit of drool forming at the corner of his mouth. He sat next to you because you positioned your big ass next to the only available chair left in the room. Poor Joe never had a choice of where to sit after you threw down your fat ass.

JUDD: I've had a crush on Joseph ever since 3rd Rock; of course I sat my fat ass next to the chair he was going to sit in! I wanted to be close enough to smell him.

SWANNER: Now the restraining order makes sense.

JUDD: The following is our interview with Joseph. And the italicized portions our narrative thoughts—not part of the interview.

JGL: So what respective publications are you from?

GOTH GIRL: Film Studio

DORK: Groucho Reviews.

SWANNER: MGW Newmagazine out of Sacramento, both of us are writers.

JGL: Ok, cool. Are these newspapers?

GOTH GIRL: Online.

DORK: Yeah, online.

SWANNER: *They're online columnists? No one told us we we're going to be doing this interview with bloggers!*

JUDD: We're in print. *The questions begin.*

DORK: The poetry of the patter in *Brick* harkens back to an old-fashioned style of acting, add to that your tendency to develop a regional dialect that is appropriate for the character, and that's a real verbal challenge. So how did you and the director, Rian Johnson, approach the language that Brendan used?

JUDD: *Patter? Harkens? What a dork!*

JGL: It was a huge part of the whole thing. That's interesting, you're the first person that brought up a regional accent. I don't know, did you get any sort of regional thing from...?

DORK: Well, I wouldn't consider myself an expert on regional, but you did with this film, and you did with the last film—*Mysterious Skin*—rather, right?

JUDD: *The film took place in SoCal. I'm thinking that it was already there! DORK!*

JGL: *Mysterious Skin* was very specific. I went to Kansas and based my speech on one of the guys I met there. But *Brick*, I never really tried to come up with any region. But... yeah. I just read the words a lot over and over and over again until I just started falling into something and I listened to a lot more musicians than actors. Tom Waits was the primary one, a lot of people...different poets...Wu Tang Clan I think had a lot of similarities with *Brick*. And just doing it until we thought it sounded good. It was a lot of repetition, a lot of practice, too.

GOTH GIRL: Well, he didn't let you watch folk-art movies because it's obvious that your character is in that tradition, but he had you read Dashiell Hammett. Had you read them before and how much did those help you get into Brendan's character?

JGL: Yeah, um, I hadn't read any Dashiell Hammett novels before and I didn't watch any Bogart. I have seen plenty of old film noir, hard-boiled genre movies, but we didn't watch any of those while we were doing the movie because—I liked the way you put it—it's a tradition that far predates Film Noir. The detective stories, and the reason we had set it—the reason that Rian had set it in a high-school was so that you wouldn't get tangled up in a parody or some sort of sarcastic reference to all the great movies that have already been done in Film Noir. So reading Dashiell Hammett helped in that mostly what I did was read the script a lot over and over again. A lot. But then sometimes you have to take a break from that so I would pick up some Dashiell Hammett and read that aloud. And that's where that came from...

SWANNER: Celebrities of your age group—

JGL: Don't call me that. Celebrity has nothing to do with any... Anything. Celebrities don't do anything. There's nothing you could call me that I dislike worse.

JUDD: *Nice, Tom. Real nice. Piss him off before we even get started.*

SWANNER: Well, I saw the film *Mysterious Skin*, and it was just amazing—

JGL: Thank you.

JUDD: *GOOD SAVE!!!*

SWANNER: Your...peers...are doing movies nothing like what you're doing. I just can't think of somebody who is more into acting and less into making money, and I know that these are not the kind of roles that you make a lot of money from, they are the roles that are so wonderful for the acting challenge.

JGL: Thank you! Well, that's what I—I'm proud to be an actor. Very proud

to be an actor. The art and craft of acting goes back a lot farther than show business—it's about as old as human beings, I think. And show business—well, show business is probably pretty old too—but yeah, it's just what you said. A lot of people are chasing after money or fame or status or whatever. I'm lucky enough, and I'm not going to take any sort of moral high-ground, I was really lucky. I worked on a TV show that I liked for 6 years, and I made a lot of money and when I was 19 and the show quit, I quit acting for awhile. *Mysterious Skin* was what I did when I came back, and I did *Brick* after that and was lucky enough to not have to worry about money and I was very fortunate in that way. I also consider it a sort of responsibility that here I've been given an opportunity that almost no one in the world is given—the opportunity to do something with your life where money doesn't have to be the first factor. I really believe in these movies and the people that make these movies—the actors, the directors, everybody. No one made any money making these movies. They made them because they love them and thought they had something to say and I'm proud of that.

SWANNER: Well it's always better to be proud of what you're doing. It really is. *Oh my God, he was talking to me! Do think we made a connection just now?*

JUDD: *Oh please. If anything he's going to be more attracted to me.*

SWANNER: *What? All you've said so far is, "We're in print." He doesn't even know you're in the room.*

DORK: There's also in this film and *Mysterious Skin* a distinct physicality to the performances. I wonder how much forethought you gave to that, or how much is organic in the process in doing it before the camera?

SWANNER: *Blah, blah, BLAH!!!*

JGL: That's interesting. They were really opposite roles in my approach to the two roles. They were very opposite. I didn't think at all about anything (laughs) when it came to the role in *Mysterious Skin*. I read the novel a lot, and I read the script and I went to Kansas and hung out with Scott Heim who wrote the novel, and that's really all the preparation that I did. There was very little about that, that was intentional in that role. *Brick* was the opposite. Every single beat, every single moment, every single line was intentional and thought over and talked about with Rian Johnson, the writer/director, and everything was very calculated, very precise. Every single shot, every single line, every single light, every single note in the soundtrack, because the score is very intricately linked with everything going on with the story. It was all very precise and the physicality was no different. I was very aware with everything that I was doing with my body in *Brick* as opposed to *Mysterious Skin*. They're really different, Neil McCormick from *Mysterious Skin*, everything was kind of really relaxed and Brendan—everything about him is very tense. In *Brick*, every step, every hit and every sprint, everything was very mapped out. That's why the violence works. We didn't have the resources to do big, grandiose fight scenes like in big-budget actions movies. But I think the action is even better for that, because film making in big budget movies tend to rely on—"Oh, we've got this skyscraper, let's throw our actor off it. We can blow up this truck," and they kind of rely on that and their action tends to lose rhythm. And it tends to not have any music or crescendos or any build up. Whereas the fight scenes that Rian mapped out—and he had them all mapped out already when we started to do this. He said, "It's going to go like this. The camera's going to be here and you're going to do this. Then for the next hit, the cameras going to be over here, you're going to do that." That's why every audience that I've been in, when the hits land, everyone is like "Ooh! Ahh!" And it's because it's timed just right. It pulls you in.

DORK: So much of it, too, is in the imagination of the audience. Have you done fight scenes ever before?

JUDD: *So what you're saying is you've only seen two of his films?*

JGL: I've done a bunch of them. The first fight scene that I think I've ever done was in *A River Runs Through It*. I took a few hits, threw a few punches. And then *3rd Rock From The Sun* had a lot of physical comedy to it. And French Stewart...I thought a lot about French Stewart all throughout making *Brick* for the physicality of it, because he really knew how to take a hit, take a fall and make it funny and make it surprising. He's the one that turned me on to Buster Keaton. So I really drew a lot from *3rd Rock*.

GOTH GIRL: I talked to Rian about 6 months ago, and we talked about how frightened he was going into his first film, but you sound like it wasn't that apparent.

SWANNER: *I talked to Riiiiian. I talked to the Direeeeeector. I write for the internet!*

JGL: That's funny. No it wasn't apparent. It was pretty remarkable how well he kept his cool and I think why—he was so egoless. Especially for a first-time director, but for any director it's not a usual thing for someone like Rian, for a director not to be possessive over their movie and actually encourage people to be creative and give their all to what we were all making. Instead of kind of claiming it as the director's own and speaking to everybody as if they're puppets. A lot of directors—not good directors—but a lot of directors do that, and he was just so encouraging because he made everyone feel inspired to try and make a difference.

SWANNER: What attracted you to the role?

JGL: The script. I was shocked when I read the script. It was like, who thought people could write like that? But after I read the script I was like, "Well OK, he can write, but this is really difficult to actually pull off." It wasn't until after I met him and we talked a lot about so many different things. And he compared *Brick* to... He used the word "operatic" and that's exactly right, because if you try to direct this realistically it will sound ridiculous and it's about that kind of acknowledgment that this is not real...and it's not singing like in opera, but it's um...

SWANNER: Theatrical?

JGL: Yeah, theatrical. And everything from that, I remember asking him like "What kind of shoes am I going to wear?" And he answered me, "Brown leather soled shoes." And it made perfect sense and the fact that he knew all that—I just got excited talking to him.

JUDD: We write for a gay magazine, so I have to ask this question so we can just get this out. You have done a lot of gay roles, even as far as your stint on *That 70's Show*. Is that something you've aimed to do and is that something your going to do again? Especially now with explosion of *Brokeback*—is that something you want to do again.

SWANNER: You were playing gay roles before it was OK to play gay roles.

JUDD: And even your gay movies, like *Latter Days*. Is that something you consciously set out to do or you just saw the role, saw this was a great film, and thought, "I want to do this." *Yeah DORK, I've seen his movies, too!*

JGL: Yeah, what you just said. I never set out to do anything particularly gay. *Mysterious Skin* I just did because I thought it was a really great script and a great novel. And I thought Gregg [Araki] would be the perfect filmmaker to make the movie. *That 70's Show* wasn't my idea at all. It was created by the people that created *3rd Rock From The Sun*: Bonnie and Terry Tuner. Really great, smart, funny people. They also created *Wayne's World*, wrote for *Saturday Night Live*. They were like, "We want you to be on our new show this is the first season of our new show." And I was like, "Cool. What do you want me to do?" I thought it was really funny, so I did it. And no, I never really had intention about it. It makes me proud of my kind of time, that the role is such a non-issue.

SWANNER: You never had to make the decision to not do a role because it's gay?

JGL: Nah!

SWANNER: From what I'm hearing from you, that wouldn't even be a thought. That's very cool.

DORK: About *Brick*, it occurred to me that the hardest part about doing the film was keeping a straight face. Especially when you're eating milk and cookies with Lukas Haas. Was that ever a problem?

SWANNER: *Hey, maybe it's because he's an actor? And he knows NOT TO LAUGH!*

JGL: Well, I was pretty thick into it. And the thing about *Brick* is even though the dialogue and the camera work are kind of over-the-top or beyond reality, the emotions never are. The emotions are very genuine. The whole point of doing so much practicing and getting the words down was so that when we were actually doing scenes, when it came time to do them, I didn't have to actually think about doing the words at all. I could just feel what I was supposed to be feeling, and Brendan is not feeling good. Pretty much there aren't any moments where he's not in pain or barely keeping pain at bay. That's why he's hard-broiled. Hard broiled. That's hard-boiled, excuse me. Hard-broiled, geez...

JUDD: I want you to know when we're transcribing this, this is ALLLL going in. (Loud obnoxious laugh)

SWANNER: *Thanks, he no longer remembers me calling him a "celebrity". Now he knows who the real asshole is.*

DORK: Oh, you're doing fine.

SWANNER: *Kiss Ass!*

JUDD: I want to ask you about John Lithgow, from *3rd Rock*, just because he's established and he's doing and has done so much and is so fabulous at everything he does and you're following in the same footsteps, obviously. Do you still work with him or do you still look to him for inspiration or as a mentor?

JGL: Certainly. All of those people. They're like a family. I still have dreams about that set all the time. It was from age 13 to 19. Every teenage year. And I learned so much from John, and Jane, Kristen, French, Simbi, Wayne, Elmarie. All of them. *Brick*, though, it came back to fruition more than any of the other stuff I've done since. Because *3rd Rock* is also faster (snaps his fingers) than life. Our mantra, actually, on *3rd Rock* was "Bigger Faster Funnier" and it was about precision and timing and that's what *Brick* was about. It wasn't about being real. So, John comes from theatre, he's done every Shakespeare play in the folio as well as who knows what else. So he knows a thing or two about dealing with poetic language. The writers on *3rd Rock* used to write really witty words. And watching him handle all those...cause he had 10 times as many words as any of us put together. And it was always a marvel to watch him get through it as fast as he did and still be clear and still carve out the thought. Sure, whether I'm thinking about it or not, he'll always be the foundation of what I'm doing

SWANNER: What do you plan on next? Continue acting? Writing? Directing?

JGL: I like to play with a video camera. That is so much fun. It was a few years ago that I got Final Cut Pro, which is an editing program. And now any Mac comes with a program called iMovies that you can do—you can't do all the super fancy-schmancy wipes and stuff—but you can totally make a movie with it. And it's so much fun to take stuff that you just ran and shot around friends or whatever and put it in a computer and put it together. I highly recommend it to anybody, especially anybody into movies to give it a try.

JUDD: One more question: We're an entertainment magazine, so we'd like to get in sort of a personal question. You're wearing mismatched socks. (Start of a bray.) You obviously chew the hell out of your fingernails. What is your circle? Just like your friends, what would you—I don't want to say classify yourself as, because that's just so blah—but like, who are you most comfortable around? Like, who would you say...to throw out some stereotypes: stoners? movies freaks? You don't strike me as the Hollywood type. I see you somewhere like Chicago, New York, you know, some borough living a very subdued life. What would be your circle of friends?

JGL: Uh... (chuckles) Um... I like, uh... (Chuckles). Well, I tend to like, uh...

HANDLER: He likes all people.

JUDD: (Obnoxious laugh.)

SWANNER: *Nice save by the publicist. My guess is it's not fat, obnoxious gay guys!*

JGL: (Chuckles) Yeah, I like all people. I like the spider monkeys more than the gorillas.

DORK: Last question, I know your next film coming out is *Kill Shot* and you're paired with Mickey Rourke for most of the film, so I'm curious to what kind of feedback from that partnership, or what did you get out of that. What can we expect?

SWANNER & JUDD: *: SHUT UP!!!*

JGL: Oh man, he was so much fun. Mickey is such a good guy, such a mentor. Mickey's a really big guy. Mickey is a MAN. And the guy I was playing kinda wants to be. And I was doing push-ups and stuff for the movie. I would be doing push-ups between takes until I said, "I can't do them anymore." And he was like "Joe, five more." That's Mickey, that's exactly Mickey. "You try to do five more. Last three on your knuckles, Joe. C'mon, you can do it, c'mon." I'm so excited about that movie—I am so proud to be a killer next to Mickey Rourke.

JUDD: The interview you have just read is true, the names have been changed to protect the socially inept and a few things were shortened because some people just kept rambling on and on.... After Dork and Goth Girl left, I asked Joe if we could get a picture with him. He was quick to agree, and he put his arms around both of us—as far as they would reach, anyhow. He was very gracious and I don't think he was that offended by being called a 'celebrity' or having his mismatched socks pointed out. He shook our hands one last time and bid us farewell. Tom and I headed to the Lone Star Saloon and relived our time spent with the young up-and-comer, and like bitchy queens, made lots of rude jokes about Dork and Goth Girl.

SWANNER: Jeez they were annoying!

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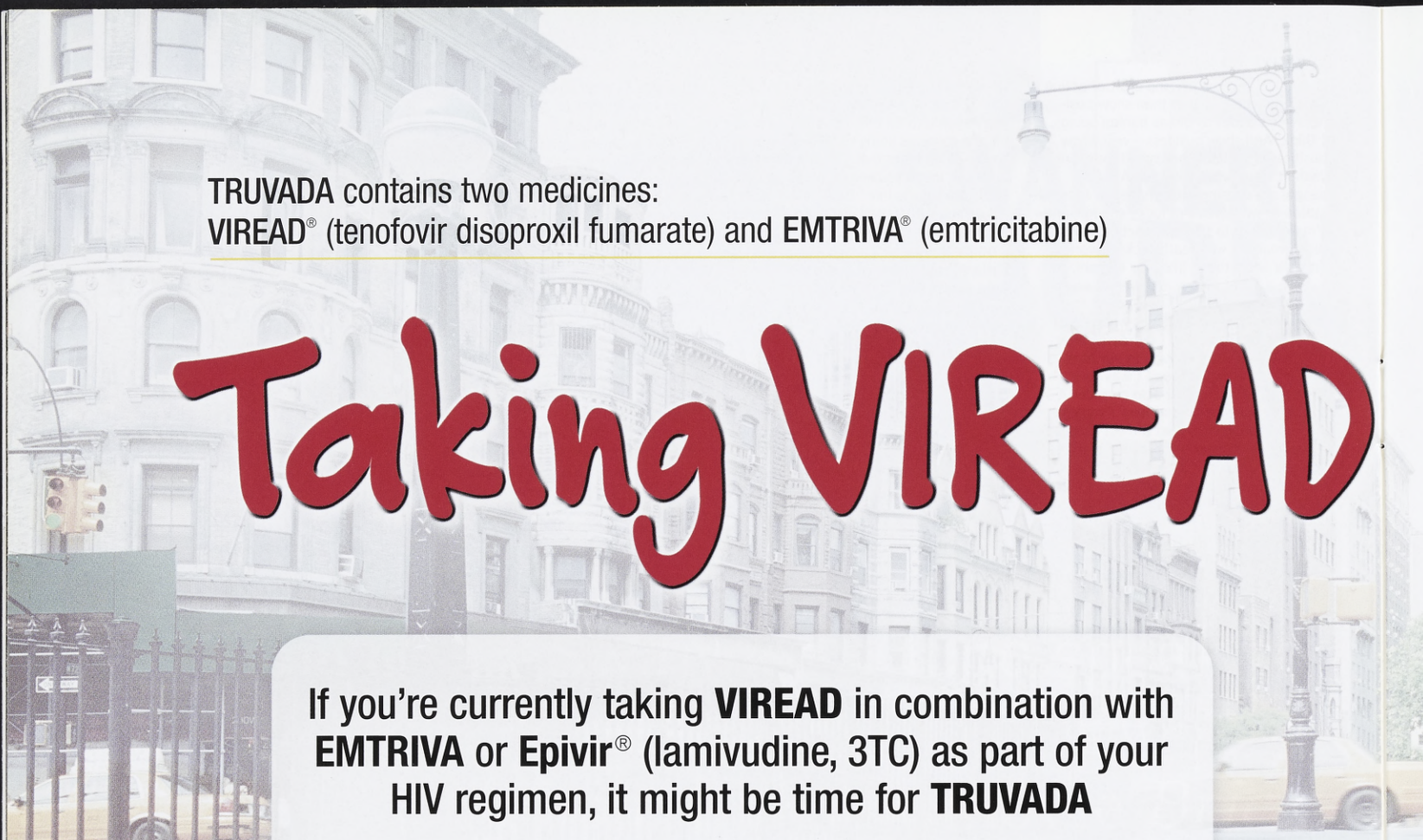

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  - You have lower stomach area (abdominal) pain.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking nucleoside analog medicines, like TRUVADA, for a long time.
- **TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B Virus infection.** Patients infected with both HBV and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) who take TRUVADA need close medical follow-up for several months after stopping treatment with TRUVADA. Follow-up includes medical exams and blood tests to check for HBV that could be getting worse. **Patients with Hepatitis B Virus infection, who take TRUVADA and then stop it, may get "flare-ups" of their hepatitis. A "flare-up" is when the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before.**

What is TRUVADA?

TRUVADA is a type of medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NRTI). TRUVADA contains 2 medicines, EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine) and VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate, or tenofovir DF) combined in one pill. TRUVADA is always used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with HIV infection. TRUVADA is for adults age 18 and older. TRUVADA has not been studied in children under age 18 or adults over age 65.

HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

TRUVADA helps block HIV reverse transcriptase, a chemical in your body (enzyme) that is needed for HIV to multiply. TRUVADA lowers the amount of HIV in the blood (viral load). TRUVADA may also help to increase the number of T cells (CD4 cells). Lowering the amount of HIV in the blood lowers the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

TRUVADA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of TRUVADA are not known at this time. People taking TRUVADA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infection. **It is very important that you see your healthcare provider regularly while taking TRUVADA.**

TRUVADA does not lower your chance of passing HIV to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood. For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never use or share dirty needles.

Who should not take TRUVADA?

Do not take TRUVADA if you are allergic to TRUVADA or any of its ingredients. The active ingredients of TRUVADA are emtricitabine and tenofovir DF. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA?

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- **are pregnant or planning to become pregnant.** We do not know if TRUVADA can harm your unborn child. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if TRUVADA is right for you. If you use TRUVADA while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about how you can be on the TRUVADA Antiviral Pregnancy Registry.
- **are breast-feeding.** You should not breast-feed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing the HIV virus to your baby. Also, it is not known if TRUVADA can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.
- **have kidney problems or are undergoing kidney dialysis treatment.**
- **have bone problems.**
- **have liver problems including Hepatitis B Virus infection.**

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- COMBIVIR®, EMTRIVA, EPIVIR®, EPIVIR-HBV®, EPZICOM™, TRIZIVIR®, or VIREAD. **TRUVADA should not be used with those medicines.**
- Drugs that contain didanosine (VIDEX®, VIDEX EC®). Tenofovir DF (a component of TRUVADA) may increase the amount of VIDEX in your blood. **You may need to be followed more carefully if you are taking TRUVADA and VIDEX together.**
- REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate) or KALETRA® (lopinavir/ritonavir). These medicines may increase the amount of tenofovir DF (a component of TRUVADA) in your blood, which could result in more side effects. You may need to be followed more carefully if you are taking TRUVADA and REYATAZ or KALETRA together.

Keep a complete list of all the medicines that you take. Make a new list when medicines are added or stopped. Give copies of this list to all of your healthcare providers and pharmacist **every** time you visit your healthcare provider or fill a prescription.

How should I take TRUVADA?

- Take TRUVADA exactly as your healthcare provider prescribed it. Follow the directions from your healthcare provider, exactly as written on the label.
- The usual dose of TRUVADA is 1 tablet once a day. TRUVADA is always used with other anti-HIV medicines. If you have kidney problems, you may need to take TRUVADA less often.
- TRUVADA may be taken with or without a meal. Food does not affect how TRUVADA works. Take TRUVADA at the same time each day.
- If you forget to take TRUVADA, take it as soon as you remember that day. **Do not** take more than 1 dose of TRUVADA in a day. **Do not** take 2 doses at the same time. Call your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure what to do. **It is important that you do not miss any doses of TRUVADA or your anti-HIV medicines.**
- When your TRUVADA supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to TRUVADA and become harder to treat.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking TRUVADA without first talking with your healthcare provider. Stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking TRUVADA.
- If you take too much TRUVADA, call your local poison control center or emergency room right away.

What should I avoid while taking TRUVADA?

- **Do not breast-feed.** See "What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA?"
- **Avoid doing things that can spread HIV infection** since TRUVADA doesn't stop you from passing the HIV infection to others.
  - **Do not share needles or other injection equipment.**
  - **Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes or razor blades.**
  - **Do not have any kind of sex without protection.** Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to reduce the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.
- COMBIVIR, EMTRIVA, EPIVIR, EPIVIR-HBV, EPZICOM, TRIZIVIR, or VIREAD. **TRUVADA should not be used with these medicines.**

What are the possible side effects of TRUVADA?

TRUVADA may cause the following serious side effects (see "What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?"):

- **Lactic acidosis** (buildup of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. **Call your doctor right away if you get signs of lactic acidosis.** (See "What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?")
- **Serious liver problems (hepatotoxicity),** with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any signs of liver problems. (See "What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?")
- **"Flare-ups" of Hepatitis B Virus infection,** in which the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before, can occur if you stop taking TRUVADA. Your healthcare provider will monitor your condition for several months after stopping TRUVADA if you have both HIV and HBV infection. TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B Virus infection.
- **Kidney problems.** If you have had kidney problems in the past or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider should do regular blood tests to check your kidneys.
- **Changes in bone mineral density (thinning bones).** It is not known whether long-term use of TRUVADA will cause damage to your bones. If you have had bone problems in the past, your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bone mineral density or may prescribe medicines to help your bone mineral density.

Other side effects with TRUVADA when used with other anti-HIV medicines include:

- Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking TRUVADA and other anti-HIV medicines. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

The most common side effects of EMTRIVA or VIREAD when used with other anti-HIV medicines are: dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, headache, abdominal pain, depression, rash, and gas. Skin discoloration (small spots or freckles) may also happen with TRUVADA.

These are not all the side effects of TRUVADA. This list of side effects with TRUVADA is **not complete** at this time because TRUVADA is still being studied. If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. Report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider right away. Your healthcare provider may be able to help you manage these side effects.

How do I store TRUVADA?

- **Keep TRUVADA and all other medicines out of reach of children.**
- Store at room temperature up to 77 °F (25 °C).
- Keep TRUVADA in its original container and keep the container tightly closed.
- Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. If you throw any medicines away make sure that children will not find them.

General information about TRUVADA:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use TRUVADA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give TRUVADA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about TRUVADA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about TRUVADA that is written for health professionals. For more information, you may also call 1-800-GILEAD-5 or access the TRUVADA website at www.TRUVADA.com.

Do not use TRUVADA if seal over bottle opening is broken or missing.

What are the ingredients of TRUVADA?

Active Ingredients: emtricitabine and tenofovir DF

Inactive Ingredients: Croscarmellose sodium, lactose monohydrate, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, and pregelatinized starch (gluten free). The tablets are coated with Opadry II Blue Y-30-10701 containing FD&C Blue #2 aluminum lake, hypromellose, lactose monohydrate, titanium dioxide, and triacetin.

Rx Only

January 2005

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GILEAD

VIREAD®
(tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) Tablets

Patient Information

VIREAD (VEER ee ad)

Generic Name: tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (te NOE' fo veer dye soe PROX il FYOU-mar-ate)

Read this leaflet carefully before you start taking VIREAD. Also, read it each time you get your VIREAD prescription refilled, in case something has changed. This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider when you start this medicine and at checkups. You should stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking VIREAD. Do not change or stop your medicine without first talking with your healthcare provider. Talk to your healthcare provider if you have any questions about VIREAD.

What is VIREAD and how does it work?

VIREAD is a type of medicine called an HIV-1 (human immunodeficiency virus) nucleotide analog reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NRTI). VIREAD is always used in combination with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with HIV-1 infection. VIREAD is for adults age 18 and older.

HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

VIREAD helps to block HIV-1 reverse transcriptase, a chemical in your body (enzyme) that is needed for HIV-1 to multiply. VIREAD lowers the amount of HIV-1 in the blood (called viral load) and may help to increase the number of T cells (called CD4 cells). Lowering the amount of HIV-1 in the blood lowers the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

Does VIREAD cure HIV-1 or AIDS?

VIREAD does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of VIREAD are not known at this time. People taking VIREAD may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV-1 infection. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections.

Does VIREAD reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others?

VIREAD does not reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Continue to practice safe sex and do not use or share dirty needles.

Who should not take VIREAD?

Together with your healthcare provider, you need to decide whether VIREAD is right for you.

Do not take VIREAD if

- you are allergic to VIREAD or any of its ingredients

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking VIREAD?

Tell your healthcare provider

- *If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant:* The effects of VIREAD on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.
- *If you are breast-feeding:* Do not breast-feed if you are taking VIREAD. Do not breast-feed if you have HIV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby. If your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that the baby can get HIV through breast-feeding.
- **If you have kidney or bone problems**
- **If you have liver problems including Hepatitis B Virus infection**
- **Tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions**
- **TELL YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER ABOUT ALL THE MEDICINES YOU TAKE,** INCLUDING PRESCRIPTION AND NON-PRESCRIPTION MEDICINES AND DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS. VIREAD MAY INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF VIDEX® (DIDANOSINE) IN YOUR BLOOD. YOU MAY NEED TO BE FOLLOWED MORE CAREFULLY IF YOU ARE TAKING THESE TWO DRUGS TOGETHER. IF YOU ARE TAKING VIDEX (DIDANOSINE) AND VIREAD TOGETHER YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER MAY NEED TO REDUCE YOUR DOSE OF VIDEX (DIDANOSINE).

  VIREAD MAY DECREASE THE AMOUNT OF REYATAZ® (ATAZANAVIR) IN YOUR BLOOD. IF YOU ARE TAKING VIREAD AND REYATAZ (ATAZANAVIR) TOGETHER YOU SHOULD ALSO BE TAKING NORVIR® (RITONAVIR).

  IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO KEEP A COMPLETE LIST OF ALL THE MEDICINES THAT YOU TAKE. MAKE A NEW LIST WHEN MEDICINES ARE ADDED OR STOPPED. GIVE COPIES OF THIS LIST TO ALL OF YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS **EVERY** TIME YOU VISIT YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER OR FILL A PRESCRIPTION.

How should I take VIREAD?

- Stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking VIREAD. Do not change your treatment or stop treatment without first talking with your healthcare provider.
- Take VIREAD every day exactly as your healthcare provider prescribed it. Follow the directions from your healthcare provider, exactly as written on the label. Set up a dosing schedule and follow it carefully.
- The usual dose of VIREAD is 1 tablet once a day, in combination with other anti-HIV medicines. If you have kidney problems, your healthcare provider may recommend that you take VIREAD less frequently.
- VIREAD may be taken with or without a meal.
- When your VIREAD supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to VIREAD and become harder to treat.
- Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIREAD to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

What should I do if I miss a dose of VIREAD?

It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of VIREAD, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

What happens if I take too much VIREAD?

If you suspect that you took more than the prescribed dose of VIREAD, contact your local poison control center or emergency room right away.

As with all medicines, VIREAD should be kept out of reach of children.

What should I avoid while taking VIREAD?

- Do not breast-feed. See "What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking VIREAD?"

What are the possible side effects of VIREAD?

- Clinical studies: The most common side effects of VIREAD are: diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, and flatulence (intestinal gas).
- Marketing experience: Other side effects reported since VIREAD has been marketed include: weakness, inflammation of the pancreas, low blood phosphate, dizziness, shortness of breath, and rash.
- Some patients treated with VIREAD have had kidney problems. If you have had kidney problems in the past or need to take another drug that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider may need to perform additional blood tests.
- Laboratory tests show changes in the bones of patients treated with VIREAD. It is not known whether long-term use of VIREAD will cause damage to your bones. If you have had bone problems in the past, your healthcare provider may need to perform additional tests or may suggest additional medication.
- Some patients taking antiviral drugs like VIREAD have developed a condition called lactic acidosis (a buildup in the blood of lactic acid, the same substance that causes your muscles to burn during heavy exercise). Symptoms of lactic acidosis include nausea, vomiting, unusual or unexpected stomach discomfort, and weakness. If you notice these symptoms or if your medical condition changes suddenly, call your healthcare provider right away.
- Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.
- If you have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection, you may have a "flare-up" of hepatitis B, in which the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before if you stop taking VIREAD. VIREAD is not for the treatment of hepatitis B virus infection.
- There have been other side effects in patients taking VIREAD. However, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious.
- This list of side effects is **not** complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. You should report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider right away. Your healthcare provider may be able to help you manage these side effects.

How do I store VIREAD?

- Keep VIREAD and all other medications out of reach of children.
- Store VIREAD at room temperature 77 °F (25 °C). It should remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label.
- Do not keep your medicine in places that are too hot or cold.
- Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. If you throw any medicines away make sure that children will not find them.

General advice about prescription medicines:

TALK TO YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS MEDICINE OR YOUR CONDITION. MEDICINES ARE SOMETIMES PRESCRIBED FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN THOSE LISTED IN A PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET. IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS ABOUT THIS MEDICINE, ASK YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER. YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER OR PHARMACIST CAN GIVE YOU INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MEDICINE THAT WAS WRITTEN FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS. DO NOT USE THIS MEDICINE FOR A CONDITION FOR WHICH IT WAS NOT PRESCRIBED. DO NOT SHARE THIS MEDICINE WITH OTHER PEOPLE.

DO NOT USE IF SEAL OVER BOTTLE OPENING IS BROKEN OR MISSING.

Viread®
(tenofovir disoproxil fumarate)

May 2005

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GILEAD

HIV NEWSWIRE

by Sonya Cox

CLINIC CHIEF RESIGNS

Long-time CARES executive director Marty Keale recently announced his plans to leave the position, saying his resignation is a mutual decision between him and the CARES board. He has been a well-respected leader and innovative event organizer, and excelled at bringing health care to those who were hardest to reach, including the homeless and the African American community. Over the years he has been a steady hand, guiding the clinic after several years of heavy turnover. Now another nationwide search will begin to find someone to quickly become familiar with the HIV issues impacting the Sacramento region. The community thanks Marty Keale for his services, and his leadership will be missed.

UPCOMING SAC VALLEY POZABILITIES EVENTS

If you haven't yet joined this fun group created especially by and for the area's HIV-positive gay guys, you're missing out! Stop by for Coffee at Butch N' Nellies (1827 I St) every Thursday morning at 10am, or Sunday Brunch at the Western Coffee Pot near Greenback & Auburn every Sunday at 11am, or the numerous other get-togethers designed by the group.

Three special events are coming up: (a) an AIDS yard sale on Sat., May 13 at the Breaking Barriers parking lot, 2020 V St. @ 21st [previously scheduled for May 6 – but rescheduled for May 13], (b) the annual Guerneville camping trip May 19-21, in conjunction with Breaking Barriers, and (c) a Healing Waters POZ Rafting Trip the weekend of July 15-16.

For more SVP information, visit their website at sacvalleypozabilities.org, or call Arturo at (916) 606-2794 to join this fun organization, or to make arrangements for any yard sale donations they would very much like to have.

GILIAD WILL NOT PROMOTE COMBO AS "PREVENTATIVE"

In mid-March, scientists expressed excitement that two Giliad drugs already in use as a treatment for HIV infection (Viread and Emtriva, sold as Truvada) show such promise in preventing HIV in monkeys that they want to expand the tests to healthy high-risk men and women around the world. They referred to the idea as a future "prevention in a bottle."

But Gilead Pharmaceuticals is trying to tone down the enthusiasm, emphasizing that the idea of its use as a preventative needs detailed testing in human trials. They say most of the scientific info available so far comes from tests with monkeys, and that use of the drugs with humans is hopeful, yet preliminary.

Truvada is approved by the Food & Drug Administration as a treatment for keeping the AIDS virus from reproducing in the body of a person already infected. However, no one knows how many people may be purchasing the pills on line for use as a preventative. Some physicians say they've heard of healthy men taking Viread and Viagra before a night on the town, and are concerned that stories of Truvada's preventative abilities could lead to people abandoning their condoms.

Additionally, if HIV meds are taken at random time intervals, without the dosage and combination advice of a physician, there's a good chance the meds could prove ineffective should they later be needed for treatment.

Giliad is also concerned that off-label use could become a legal and financial headache for them, especially if the pills are ultimately found to be ineffective in preventing the disease. In Cambodia in 2004, for example, local sex workers testing Viread demanded free health care and compensation if any of the volunteers became infected. U.S. health officials are mindful as well, and say the drugs should be given only along with counseling, condoms, regular testing, and physician followup.

"It's premature to speculate on what the actual use of the product might be at this time," say Gilead officials. "We really need data from clinical trials to determine what the effectiveness of the pill would be as a preventive."

USE OF GENERIC AZT CAPSULES APPROVED

Soon after Glaxo's patent on AZT (Retrovir/zidovudine) ran out in Sept 2005, the FDA approved its use in tablet and oral solution forms. Last month, they issued the first generic approval for capsule dosage for the drug. Approval of this additional dosage formulation should help reduce the cost of this therapy, say FDA officials. AZT helps keep HIV from reproducing, and must be used only in combination with other anti-retroviral meds.

FDA's approval means here are no existing patents and/or exclusivity preventing the approval of generic versions of this product. As with all FDA-approved generics, future versions must meet all the agency's manufacturing-quality, clinical safety, and effectiveness standards before U.S. marketing.

ASSEMBLY AGREES TO NAME-BASED HIV REPORTING

The California Assembly unanimously passed legislation to move the state to a name-based HIV reporting system, joining the Senate, which already passed similar legislation. The bill also increases penalties for the malicious or negligent disclosure of HIV test results. It now goes to the Governor, who reportedly supports the legislation, and could become law within weeks. The Governor then will have up to a year to draft rules for the name-based HIV reporting system.

California's switch to name-based HIV reporting will mean as much as $50 million in federal funds, which will be tied to name-based HIV data beginning this fall. But because the federal funding formula will switch to name-based HIV data before California's system is fully implemented, the state could still lose federal money unless Congress or federal regulators intervene.

Under the current HIV reporting system, HIV cases are identified by alpha-numeric codes. That method has proved most comfortable for those with HIV concerned about confidentiality, but California already uses name-based reporting for AIDS cases and confidentiality has not been an issue.

Officials describe the current HIV code system as an expensive bureaucratic mess in which incomplete or erroneous data have been reported to local health departments, leaving them unable to follow up cases. State officials said it has left them without an accurate view of the epidemic for making informed decisions

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Scott Oatman
Randy Pike
Don Perez

April 1987:
Kevin Adams
Mel D. Foote
Mick Shaughnessy

April 1988:
Scott Jay Miller

April 1989:
Jose (Joe) Herrera
C. K. McClatchy

April 1990:
Kenny Pendergast
Stanton Kotter
Walter Williams
Paul Martin
Dr. Lee Wreyford
Gary McDaniel
Ryan White

April 1991:
Dr. Laz Nemeth
Chad Andrew Henry
Manuel Silva

April 1992:
Chris Angeles
Louis Franklin
Lauren Searle
Michael Croker
Jeffrey Poile

April 1993:
Donald Thompson
Stephen Green
Ben Rudolph
Sal G.
Donald Pruitt
David Oliver

April 1994:
Jim DiStefano
Andrew Swanson
Steve Unruh
Philip Waggoner
Jack A.
Emilee P.
Rawlston Deen Poole
Jay Johnson
Wally Antosiewicz
Vance E. Neel

April 1995:
Wayde Winsley
Joseph Wm. Leis
Ronald Campbell-Gallaher
Daniel Miles Cargile
Rodney F.
Wayne Fred Risley
Bob Chermack
Joseph Wm. Leis
Richard Lynn King
Billy Kimpton
Larry Bane

April 1996:
Jerry Castillo Arnold
Dr. William "Danny" Covey
Jon Allman
Al Hader
Gary L.
George Ray Peterson
Linda H.
Eric Lee Cook
Steven L. Martin

April 1998:
Shannon Davis
Jon Anthony Bridgham
Steven Bruggeman

April 1999:
Mike Amoretti
Richard Monnier

April 2000:
Joe Garrett

April 2001:
Eric Hogan
Akili Jaye
Jimmy Mazza
Anthony "Garth" Harrison, Jr.

April 2004:
Phyllis Randall

April 2005:
Mark (DJ Markie Mark) Simpson
Matt Wakely

Year Unknown:
Eugene Harris
Terry Heiser
Don Hogue
Winston Ingham

In Loving Memory of friends lost last month March 2006:
Lee Scarborough

WHEN SOMEONE YOU LOVE BECOMES A MEMORY, THE MEMORY BECOMES A TREASURE

To add the name of friends, family, or loved ones to MGW's IN LOVING MEMORY column, call (916)737-0309.

gay? straight? mixed.

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Deborah Cox - *House Is Not A Home*
Deep Dish - *Say Hello*
Todd Terry- *Can U Feel It*
Vernessa Mitchell - *Love Will Find A Way*
Janice Robinson- *Dreamer*
Debby Holiday - *Bring It On*

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DJ Kimberly S.

Amuka - *I Want More*
Veronica - *Relentless (Just A Game)*
Lola - *No Stings*
Luz Divina - *You Shine On Me*
Ari Gold - *Love Will Take Over*

Soaring vocals and hip shaking beats.
- QVegas

DJ Junior Vasquez

Destiny's Child - *Stand Up For Love*
Fanatic feat. Deborah Cox - *Stupid Like*
Superchumbo - *U Know I Love It*
Cissy Houston - *Shake Yourself Loose*
Jason Walker - *No More*

Uplifting, vocal-driven house that showcases beautiful melodies.
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Lighthouse Living Services
916.979.9181, lighthouseeils.com
MCC For AIDS
916.447.2444
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Club 21
1119 21st St., 916.443.1537
FACES
2000 K St., 916.448.7798
The Bolt
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The Depot
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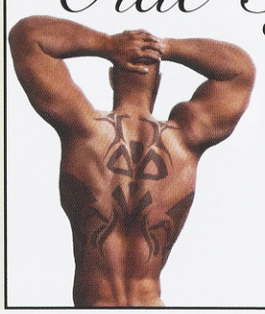
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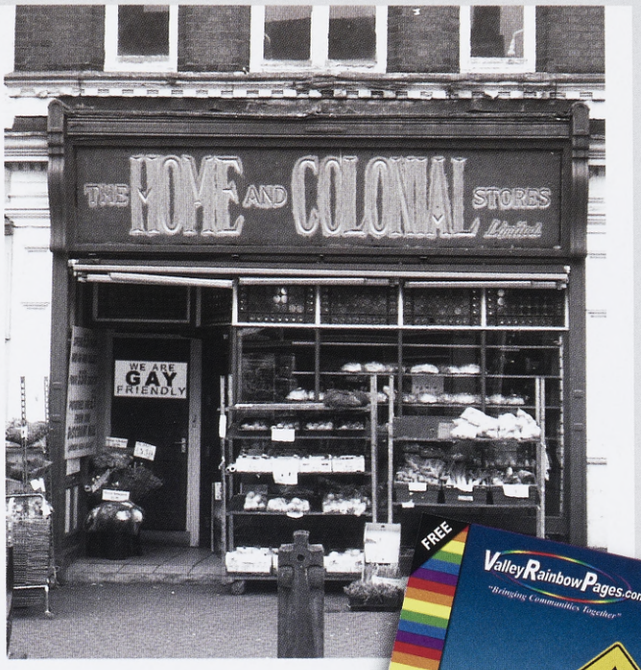

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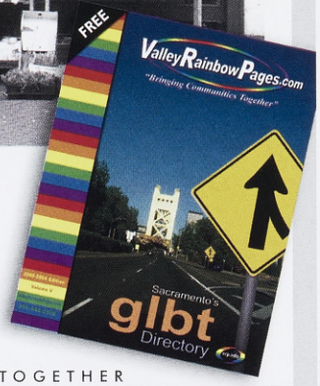

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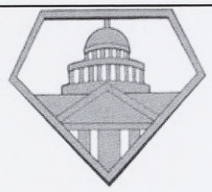
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